

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01

OPR-01 /061 W

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R 271630Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1885

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1099

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SPON, PO

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL PRESS FEARS GOP RETALIATION

REF: LISBON 1075

1. LOCAL UPI AND AP CORRESPONDENTS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN TO EMBOFFS DURING PAST FEW DAYS ABOUT POSSIBLE RETALITORY ACTION AGAINST ONE OF THE WIRE SERVICES AS A WARNING TO INTERNATIONAL PRESS TO GO EASIER ON STORIES CRITICAL OF GOP AND ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT.

2. UPI, AP, AND REUTER CORRESPONDENTS WILL MEET NEXT WEEK TO  
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PLAN JOINT STRATEGY IN EVENT GOP DECIDES TO OUST ONE OF THEM. MOST

LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR OUSTER IS STEVENS BROENING OF AP WHO BROKE SOVIET FISHING FACILITIES IN PORTUGAL STORY AND LAST WEEK ANGERED ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT BY WRITING ABOUT SUPPOSEDLY CONFIDENTIAL 7-POINT PLATFORM OF UNDERSTANDING NOW BEING DISCUSSED WITH POLITICAL PARTIES.

3. BROENING RECENTLY SIGNED CONTRACT WITH GOVERNMENT-OWNED NEWS SERVICE ANI FOR DISTRIBUTION OF AP WIRE. HOWEVER, ANI HAS NOT PICKED UP SERVICE YET, AND BROENING IS BEGINNING TO THINK ANI MAY BE PLANNING TO CANCEL CONTRACT AS SIGNAL FOR HIM TO LAY OFF.

4. TOUGH WORDS ABOUT FOREIGN PRESS IN NEW INFORMATION MINISTER'S STATEMENT AT SWEARING IN (REFTEL) HAVE ADDED TO FOREIGN PRESS' FEARS OF MOVE AGAINST THEM.

5. COMMENT: FOREIGN PRESS SERVES VITAL FUNCTION IN THIS COUNTRY, WHERE DOMESTIC PRESS SUFFERS FROM TIMID SELF-CENSORSHIP PRACTICES LEFT OVER FROM OLD REGIME, HISTORY OF FINES AND SUSPENSIONS UNDER NEW REGIME, EXTENSIVE INTERNAL CONTROL OF MEDIA BY LEFTIST WHO SUPPRESS NEWS THEY DON'T LIKE, AND, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, A COMPLETE LACK OF A TRADITION OF INVESTIGATORY REPORTING. AS RESULT, FOREIGN PRESS IS WIDELY READ BY ELITES AND SERVES SOME OF FUNCTIONS NORMALLY CARRIED OUT BY A DOMESTIC PRESS IN KEEPING GOVERNMENT HONEST. FOR EXAMPLE, ONLY CLEAR EXPOSITION PORTUGUESE MAN-IN-THE-STREET GOT OF 7-POINT PROPOSAL FOR AFM INSTITUTIONALIZATION WAS NEWSPAPER A CAPITAL'S REPEAT OF AP STORY--A TRADITIONAL WAY FOR PORTUGUESE PRESS TO GET OUT A STORY THEY DARE NOT WRITE THEMSELVES.

6. GOP IS HIGHLY SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM IN FOREIGN PRESS. AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBOFFS HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN SUBJECTED TO COMPLAINTS BY GOP OFFICIALS ABOUT US PRESS COVERAGE OF PORTUGAL.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** SOPN, PO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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